# THE QUAKER TURN'D JEW.

BEING

## A true Relation,

HOW

An eminent *QUAKER* in the Isle of *ELY*, on Monday the 18th. of *April*. 1675. *Circumcised* himself, out of *Zeal* for a Certain *Case of Conscience*, Renounced his Religion, and became a Prosolited *JEW*.

With the Occasion, and Manner thereof, in all Circumstances.

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*An Eminent* QUAKER *turn'd* JEW, *&c.*

NOt to ſtand trifling with a long Preamble, I ſhall come directly to the Relation of the Story, which both for the Truth and Rarity of it, deſerves the Readers Attention: It happened no longer ago then on *Monday*, the 18th. of *April* laſt: the Occaſion and manner of it was thus.

There was a Man in the Iſle of *Ely*, that ſeem'd a great *Zealot*, and very ſtrict in the profeſſion of that Mock-Religion, which is Vulgarly called *Quakeriſme*; He was indeed formerly for a long time, very unſtable in his way, and had run through ſeveral Forms and Parties, but at laſt he fell upon this Quaking way; which

is a kind of Common Shore, into which the Puddle of *Hereſies* runs, and there ſettles. Amongſt them he ſoon learn'd to ſigh profoundly, and make ſcurvy faces, to ſet his looks in a poſture of ſimplicity, that he might Cheat people with the better Advantage. His Hat was as fixt to his Head as a *Turks Turbant*, and no Man could *Thou* his betters more nimbly: In a word, He was ſo ſtrict in obſerving the Ill manners of that *Sect*, that he ſeemed to ſurpaſs moſt of them in Zeal: For he would at their Meetings, not only be a Hearer, but a Speaker; and rattle it for two hours, till he Foam'd at the Mouth, in declaring no body knows what to them. And in all his dealings with his Neighbours he would ſtill be at a word, from which he would not vary in the leaſt. But whatever price he ſet upon his Goods (being a Chandler by his Calling) he would not bate a Farthing, though it were far above the worth. For being upheld by thoſe of his own Sect (who make it part of their Religion, and perhaps tis the beſt Principle in it, to deal one with another) he would never ſell any thing to thoſe of the World, unleſs they would abandon their own Judgments, and ſuffer themſelves to be abominably Cheated by crediting his very-lyes, and pretentions of Honeſty. By which practiſes making great Gain his Godlineſs, he grew Rich; and fell into the way of Farming, and great doings in the Country, and often Rid to *Cambridge* upon his occaſions; which puts me in mind of a Cheat of his, which (though it may ſeem a Digreſſion) I cannot paſs it by without Relating. It happened one day, he being mounted on a luſty an very goodly Gelding to look at; a Gentleman overtaking him, liked him very well; and asked, If he would ſell him, *Yea* quoth the *Quaker*, if thou and I can agree; What will you have for him, ſays the Gentleman, Twenty pounds, ſays the Quaker. In ſhort they agreed, and at the next Inn the Gentleman paid the Money; and then deſired to know what faults the Nag had.

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The Quaker answered, Dost thou see any fault in him? To which he answered no: Then Friend, says he, this very like the Beast may not see any in thee. For the plain Truth was, he was Stark Blind, and the Gentleman Religiously Trappan'd by which publick Prank, our trembling Saint began to be noted, but soon after grew more notorious by the following Accident, which gives occasion to this Discourse.

There dwelt in the same Town a Woman descended of honest Parents, whom a Friend of the same Religion had Married; She was both handsome and Buxome, about twenty Years of Age, and had a Rowling Eye, that seem'd to declare her Affections apt to wander; our before mentioned *Thomas* the Quaker, had often attempted her Chastity, alledging that in them it was no sin, but a duty to supply each others necessities, but she several times gave him a Repulse, till at length he affirming that he had a Vision, and was commanded to know her according to the Flesh; and that she should conceive a Holy Seed, which should do great things on the Earth: She was prevailed with to consent, and they contrived, That the next time her Husband should (by reason of his Business) be absent, they would consummate their Lascivious Desires.

The place which they had designed for this beastly Action was very suitable, being as sordid as the Deed required, That is to say, a Hogs Stye: So having notice the good man was gone out, *Thomas* that dwelt but next Door almost, came as he used to do, and the Woman and he walkt out talking together, and slily got into the said withdrawing Room, unobserved by any of the Servants. There he fell roundly to his business as the Spirit mov'd him; and Read her such a Lecture of Perfection that her Bowels were much refreshed with Consolation in the Inward Man. But whilst they were thus exercising

sing each others Gifts, and spreading abroad their Talents for mutual Edification; Honest Cornute the Husband comming home sooner than was expected, and finding his Spouse absent, was informed by his Servants, That she was gone towards the Garden with *Thomas* ——— (of whom he before had some suspition) Jealousie therefore having taken possession of his Brain, he searched for her with a more curious Eye than ordinary, but at last hearing a noise or Grunting of the Hogs, being disturb'd by the Active Couple that had usurped part of their Lodging, he goes up to the Stye, and peeping through the Boards, saw to his Grief and Confusion, his Wife lain flat on her back in an Illuminated Trance, and his Friend *Thomas* holding forth to her with eager Transports of Zeal; The sight whereof Rouzed the Old man within him, and made him break forth into these words, *Oh ye Generation of Vipers, and Seed of the Serpent; ye Children of Belial, and Instruments of all filthiness, how have ye given way to the Temptation, to work this Wickedness this day before my Eyes.* They no sooner heard this Voice but it spoyl'd their sport, and put an abrupt period to their delights, making them shift away as fast as they could; whoilst the Husband girding up his Loyns, resolves not to put his Horns in his Pocket; but repairs to several of their Friends, especially some that were (as they call it) in the Ministry: Whom he tells how he had caught his Zealous *Friend Thomas*, committing a Deed of *Darkness* against the Convictions of the *Light*, and Scandalizing the Truth with Fleshly Filthyness, in committing Adultery with his natural Wife, whereof his eyes were Witnesses. Hereupon *Thomas* is Summoned to appear before a Special Meeting of Friends, where his Crime is laid before him, from which he endeavoured to excuse himself, Saying, "*Friends! I do confess I am* "*as they say under Blame in this matter; and as a City* "*Friend said, when he had Cheated the Wicked of Forty*

"*Thou-*

*"Thousand pounds; I have much trouble upon my Spirit "for the thing, but I hope you will consider that Flesh is "Frail, and that I was not yet Arrived at a State of Per-"fection; but suffered the Light to be Clowded with Concu-"piscence, but though the outward Man did the Act, the "indwelling Seed remains still within me in purity. Where-"fore since it is not yet known in Gath, nor declared to the "Ungodly, ye will do well to past it by with silence, consi-"dering it may be any of your own Cases another day.*

But this Apology would not serve; they were resolved to deliver him over to Satan to be Buffetted for the Mortification of the Flesh, and therefore disowned him; so that he was forced to depart with sorrow and heaviness of heart: When he came home, considering with himself how he had offended, and fearing that his Reputation amongst Friends, and his Gain that accrewed thereby would cease, he resolved upon the following Pennance, for immediately he Retired into his Closet, drew forth the man of sin out of his Breeches, and beholding it with an Eye of Indignation, *Thou base and filthy Member* (quoth he) *whose standing hath occasioned my Fall, I now will take Vengeance upon thee*; Saying which, with a sharp Knife he *Circumcised* himself, and sending for a Chyrurgeon applyed Remedies to the Wound; resolving to expiate his offence by dissembling himself for the future, to perpetrate any such nefarious Crime.

This being done, he sent to the heads of his Sect, acquainting them that he had cut off the unruly Member, and desiring again to be admitted amongst them; but this the She Friends, at the next Assembly violently opposed; alledging, That no person unfit for the Work of Generation, ought to be admitted to their Communion. So that he is forced to remain as an Out-cast, being generally known throughout all the Isle of *Ely*,

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and parts adjacent, by the Reproachful Name of, *The Apostatiz'd Quaker*; Or, *The Proselyted Jew*; of which Opinion he now owns himself, and has resolved never more to eat *Swines Flesh*, because of the unhappy Adventure of the *Hog's Head*.

But I may not Conclude this Tragy-Comedy, without relating one pleasant passage of the Woman that prov'd a *Back-slider* with him. Her Husband has since refused to Bed with her; alledging that she had Defiled her Vessel; and having lain apart from her several Nights, she comes one Morning early into his Chamber and would needs go into his Bed to him, which he perceiving, and resolving to avoid her temptations kept out, and went into her Chamber, and goes into the Bed where she lay before: By and by she follows him thither, and offer'd the same kindness there, But he absolutely refusing to admit of her Embraces. She being enraged, catches up her Chamber-pot, and flings it all upon him; Saying, *Verily John, if thou wilt have none of the Flesh, thou shalt have some of the Broth.* Of which abuse he has since complained to Friends, who have thereupon disowned her likewise: And now she and her Husband live apart. And these Extravagancies being become publickly known in those parts, have occasioned many who were formerly deluded, by Quaking Seducers, to forsake their deceitful ways, and Erronious Principles.

FINIS.